

SECRET SENSITIVE

*File "Name" to
DCI"*

2 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator

SUBJECT : Presidential Briefing on Soviet Forgeries

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1. Attached is a sketch of a briefing prepared by the DDO

It will give you the flavor of the topic and although it's still a draft,

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-I need guidance on how to proceed and

-You should tell Dr. Brzezinski pretty soon what
you're doing with his January 29 request.

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2. I have two concerns about this topic:

A. We should not inadvertently line up on one side or
another of a policy debate. Giving the briefing as
it's sketched here may well be seen as siding with the
hardliners. Not giving it may well be seen as siding
with the softliners. One should decide if one wants
to line up.

B. Implicit in the briefing sketch (even if you don't
raise the issue explicitly) is the question, "What do
we do about it?" Since the kind of interagency work
that's needed to produce a good answer hasn't been
done, there's some danger that we'll shoot from the
hip before removing the gun from its holster. We know,
for example, that some State staffers are worried (maybe
legitimately, maybe not) about linkages between this
and SALT.

3. There seem to be at least five options for proceeding.

A. Go back to the initial DDO factual briefing. This
can be given Wednesday. Its tone can be changed
easily to avoid taking sides, but it may well leave
the President wondering why you're taking his time.

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- ✓ B. Clean up this briefing paper. This paper evolved from the initial DDO factual briefing at my urging. The problem of siding could be mitigated, but not eliminated, by excising the parts which address US responses. At any rate this can be made ready by Wednesday.
- C. Start over and prepare a briefing on the Overall Trends in Soviet-US Relations, a briefing in which the discussion of forgeries would serve only to illustrate one aspect of the overall situation. This will take at least a couple weeks to do.
- ✓ D. Convert this briefing into a memorandum for Dr. Brzezinski and give it to him telling him so many higher priority topics are pressing in on the briefing schedule that you have not been able to work it in and aren't likely to be able to work it in soon.
- E. Discuss the briefing as it stands now with Dr. Brzezinski, note that the facts seem to point to the need for a US response, and recommend that possible responses be considered on an interagency basis and that you defer the briefing until you and he have a better sense of US options. ☐

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Attachment